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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of

ANTHONY HARRISON-GRIFFIN and
ROBIN LEVIEN

Serial No. 10/688,814

Filed October 17, 2003

For CULINARY PRESS

Group Art Unit 3725

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Sir:

Submitted herewith is a certified copy of British Application No. 0224327.7 filed October 18, 2002, from which priority is claimed in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 27, 2004



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Patents Form 1/77

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Continuation sheets of this form

Description 12

Claim(s) 4

Abstract 1

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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) 1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature LLOYD WISE Date 18/10/02
Agent for the applicant

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom Steven Howe (0207) 571 6200

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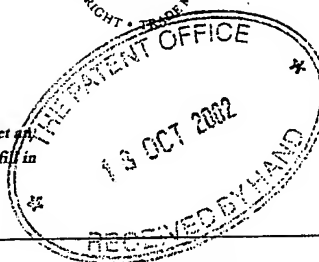
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Cardiff Road
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1. Your reference

SH-58201

2. Patent application number

0224327.7

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3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Maxpat Trading & Marketing (Far East) Ltd.
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Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

Hong Kong

6978431001

4. Title of the invention

CULINARY PRESS

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

Lloyd Wise

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Commonwealth House
1-19 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1LW
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117001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

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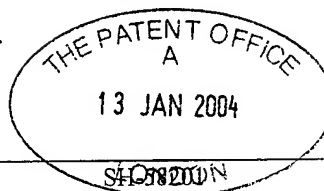
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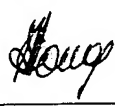
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Statement of inventorship and of
right to grant of a patent



The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
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Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference	SL038200N
2. Patent application number (if you know it)	0224327.7
3. Full name of the or of each applicant	Maxpat Trading & Marketing (Far East) Limited
4. Title of the invention	CULINARY PRESS
5. State how the applicant(s) derived the right from the inventor(s) to be granted a patent	By virtue of Agreement with the named inventors
6. How many, if any, additional Patents Forms 7/77 are attached to this form? (see note (c))	
7.	I/We believe that the person(s) named over the page (and on any extra copies of this form) is/are the inventor(s) of the invention which the above patent applications relates to. Signature  Date 13 January 2004 LLOYD WISE
8. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom	Steven Howe 020 7571 6200

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Enter the full names, addresses and postcodes of the inventor's in the boxes and underline the surnames

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Reminder

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DUPLICATE

-1-

Culinary Press

The present invention relates to a culinary press and particularly, although not exclusively, to a press used
5 for crushing garlic.

Garlic presses are well-known and can take a variety of forms. In one popular form the press comprises two pivotably connected members having handles extending
10 therefrom one of which defines at one end a chamber into which a garlic clove is placed with a perforated surface at the bottom of the chamber, and the other of which is provided with a plunger portion which extends into the chamber. When the handles are brought together the garlic
15 clove is crushed and forced through the perforated surface. In one particular form of press the perforated surface is formed as separate element pivotably connected to the member defining the chamber, to allow for ease of access to its interior surface for cleaning purposes.

20 Of particular importance with such hand operated devices is ease of use. Many known presses are difficult to use effectively requiring significant force to be applied which is particularly difficult for the elderly or infirm.

25 In a first aspect the present invention seeks to provide a press with which it is easy to apply sufficient operating force.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a culinary press comprising first and second elongate members pivotably connected to each other near a pressing end at a first pivot point, the first member at least in part defining a food receiving chamber, and with a perforated surface provided against which food to be crushed is pressed, and a pivotably mounted plunger disposed between the elongate members to be pivotable about a second pivot point into said chamber, wherein the plunger is mounted so that its second pivot point is disposed on the opposite side of the first pivot point from the majority of the chamber, and wherein the second elongate member is formed with an actuating surface which bears on the plunger, whereby the actuating surface bears on the plunger at a position increasingly distant from the second pivot point on progressive closing as food is being crushed.

Such a structure means that on progressive crushing the region on the plunger on which the actuating surface bears progressively moves away from the plunger's pivot, increasing the mechanical advantage of the press, and decreasing the force required to crush a given food item. Thus, the press is particularly easy to use for those of limited strength. It also allows larger amounts of food to be crushed in any single crushing action.

Although described below in relation to a press particularly for crushing garlic, the invention has wider applicability for example for other types of culinary presses such as potato ricers, fruit presses, nut crackers and similar items.

The second pivot point is preferably disposed at a forward end of the chamber, and with the first pivot point disposed between about one third and one half of the distance along the chamber from its forward end. In a preferred embodiment the spacing is about four tenths of the distance from the front of the chamber.

In the preferred embodiment the plunger has an upper surface remote from its pivot which has a generally planar surface, and adjacent its pivot defines a recessed region. This recessed region is important for receiving the actuator surface when the press is opened out so that the plunger can be pivoted fully out of the chamber allowing easy access to the perforated surface for cleaning purposes.

The actuating surface is preferably defined on an actuator finger which actuator finger is fixed to an underside of the second elongate member. This provides a very simple, yet perfectly effective means for bearing on the plunger.

A further difficulty with conventional presses is that

there is a tendency for the garlic which has been crushed against the perforated surface to adhere to both the upper side of the perforated surface and the plunger so that these have a tendency to stick together, making access to the perforated surface after use more difficult. The present invention seeks to provide a structure which overcomes this problem.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a culinary press comprising first and second elongate members pivotably connected to each other near a pressing end, the first member at least in part defining a food-receiving chamber with a perforated surface provided against which food to be crushed is pressed, and a pivotably-mounted plunger disposed between the elongate members to be pivotable into said chamber towards the perforated surface, the second elongate member being adapted to act on the plunger on one side of its pivot to move the plunger towards the perforated surface, and wherein the second elongate member is further adapted to act on the plunger on the opposite side of its pivot as the first and second members are moved apart on opening of the press in order to drive the plunger out of the chamber.

Such a structure prevents the plunger from adhering to the perforated surface through the crushed foodstuff, and allows the user access to the chamber and the upper side

of the perforated surface so that any remaining foodstuffs can be readily removed.

5 The second elongate member is preferably formed with an actuator which on opening of the press engages means provided on the plunger; which actuator may make a variety of forms, in a preferred form comprising a bent protrusion defining an edge which engages said means on the plunger.

10 In a preferred embodiment the first and second elongate members are pivotably connected at a position spaced from the said means on the plunger and arranged such that said actuator moves in an arc which intersects said means on the plunger.

15 The means on the plunger may comprise an abutment surface formed on the plunger which is abutted by said actuator. A lateral groove may be formed between the abutment surface and the pivot of the plunger whereby the abutment
20 surface may flex relative to the pivot, which is important on closing of the press after use.

The second member may be formed with a cutout region with said actuator extending into the cutout and being spaced
25 from said means of the plunger to allow a degree of relative pivoting apart of the first and second members before the actuator engages the plunger, typically in the region of 90° of relative pivoting in the opening

direction before the actuator engages the plunger. Moreover, the plunger is pivotably mounted at a position closely adjacent the region of the plunger with the abutment surface such that after a predetermined rotation of the plunger as it is driven by the actuator, the actuator escapes from the abutment surface such that on continued opening the rotation the plunger is no longer driven by the actuator, preferably within the region of 50° of pivoting before the actuator leaves the abutment surface.

The perforated surface may be formed in a separate bent strip pivotably joined to the first elongate member and forming at least a bottom region of said chamber.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the following drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a culinary press in accordance with an embodiment of the invention in a closed position;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the culinary press with the handles partly opened;

Figure 3 shows the press from below when closed;

Figure 4 shows the press from the front when closed;

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view in a partly opened out condition with the plunger just engaged by an actuator;

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view in a slightly more opened out condition with the actuator just disengaged from the plunger;

Figure 7 is a cross-sectional view in a more closed condition during food crushing;

Figure 8 is a cross-sectional view in a still more closed condition; and

Figure 9 is a cross-sectional view in a fully closed condition.

With reference to the drawings, the culinary press in accordance with the first embodiment of the invention is generally designated 2 and comprises first and second members 4, 6 pivotably connected together by means of a pin 8 which extends through aligned apertures near ends of respective members 4, 6 at which pressing takes place. The first member 4 has a body which defines in part a food-receiving chamber 9 between opposed sidewall regions 10, 12 and includes a first handle 14 extending therefrom.

The second member 6 is provided near the end thereof to which it is pivotably connected to the first member 4 with a cutout region defining a tongue 15 on the upper surface as best seen in Figure 1. The tongue 15 is formed with a bent end region defining an actuating nose 17. On the underside of the second member 6 is an actuating finger 16 which is secured to or unitarily formed therewith. A handle portion 18 extends rearwardly from the second

member 6.

Pivotably mounted between the first and second members 4, 6 there is provided a perforated plate 20 having an arcuate perforated surface 22 of length greater than its width, joined to an upstanding end wall 24 and a bent over lip 26 as best seen in Figure 6. An upper region of the end wall 24 is of slightly greater lateral dimension than the distance between the sidewalls 10, 12 forming a shoulder, whilst there are small cutouts 27 in the sidewalls 10, 12 into which the shoulders sit, limiting the downward movement of the plate 20. The sidewalls 10, 12 of the first member 4 and the perforated surface 22 and the plate end wall 24 together define the chamber 9 into which garlic or other foodstuff to be crushed is placed. At the opposite end of the plate 20 a pair of upstanding legs 27 are provided through which a pivot pin 28 extends, by which the plate 20 is secured to the first member 4.

Also pivotably mounted so as to lie between the first and second members 4, 6 is a plunger 30 which can pivot into and out of the chamber with its pivot point arranged at or near a forward end of the chamber 9. A forward end region 32 of the plunger has a lateral opening therethrough, through which the pin 28 extends, whereby its pivot is coincident with that of the perforated plate 22. At the region of the plunger 30 remote from its pivot the upper surface defines an upwardly concave surface defining a

shoulder 31 joining a generally planar top region 33. The plunger 30 is provided with an arcuate underside 34 and end region 36 conforming to the shape of the perforated surface 22 and end wall 24 respectively. At the forward end region the plunger 30 is formed with a laterally extending upwardly facing abutment surface 32 adjacent a laterally extending groove 38. On opening of the handles the actuating nose 17 of the tongue 15 engages the abutment surface 32 as is discussed below. The plunger 30 also defines on its upper surface adjacent its pivot, a recess which is important for allowing the plunger 30 to be fully pivoted out of the chamber 9, to allow for cleaning of the perforated surface.

In use, the members 4 and 6 are first pivoted into the open position illustrated in Figure 6 or to a position more open than this. An item of foodstuff such as a garlic clove to be crushed is placed within the chamber 9 on the upper side of the perforated surface 22. The handles 14, 18 are then pivoted together so that the actuating finger 16 engages the upper surface of the plunger initially at or near the shoulder region 31, forcing it into the chamber 9 and starting to crush the foodstuff through the perforated surface 22 from where it emerges on the underside thereof. Further closing of the handles brings the press 2 through the positions shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8 where it will be noted that the actuating finger 16 is progressively riding up and along the upper surface

33 of the plunger 30, with the foodstuff being progressively forced through the perforated surface. It will further be appreciated that it is essentially the relative dispositions of the pivot points of the actuating
5 finger 16 (or rather that of the upper member 6 on which the finger is mounted) and the pivot for the plunger 30 which is disposed on the opposite side of the actuating finger pivot 8 from the chamber or at least the majority of the chamber, which effects this movement of the
10 position at which the force is applied to the plunger. Thus, the upper surface of the plunger 30 is acting somewhat in the manner of a cam surface, with the point at which force is applied to the plunger 30 moving progressively further from the plunger pivot, and thereby
15 increasing the mechanical advantage of the press, and decreasing the required crushing force. The fully closed portion is shown in Figure 9.

The actuating finger pivot 8 is preferably arranged
20 between about one third and one half of the distance along the chamber from the front (more particularly from the plunger pivot point). If the pivot points are too close there is little increase in mechanical advantage on progressive crushing, whereas if they are too far apart
25 the shape and dimension of the upper member to accommodate this would be unwieldy. In the preferred embodiment as illustrated the pivot points are spaced by about four tenths of the chamber length.

After use the handles 14, 18 are moved apart, the tongue 15 moving towards the forward end of the plunger, its actuating nose 17, specifically the forward-facing edge, engaging the abutment surface 32 at a position where the handles are pivoted at about 90° to each other, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 5. As the handles 14, 18 are moved further apart the plunger 30 is driven by the tongue 15 to rotate in an anticlockwise sense as shown in Figure 5, out of the chamber. This thereby allows the user access to the upper surface of the perforated plate 22 so as to easily remove any crushed foodstuff remaining in the chamber 9. In view of the relative positions of the respective pivot points of the members 4, 6 as compared to the pivot of the plunger 30 a small rotational movement of the tongue 15 effects a large rotational movement of the plunger 30. The tongue 15 is moving in a relatively flat arc, and after a relatively small further angular displacement the forward end region of the plunger has rotated such that the actuating nose 17 disengages from the abutment surface 32 and moves over and past the forward end of the plunger as indicated in Figure 6, such that the plunger 30 is free to be pivoted manually further open or to fall back into the chamber 9 as desired.

If the user now attempts to close the press from a fully open position in which the members 4, 6 are generally facing away from each other at 180°, because it is

arranged that the path of travel of the actuating finger 16 intercepts the forward end of the plunger 30 (for purposes of driving it open as discussed above), if the plunger 30 is seated within the chamber the actuating finger 16 will foul the forward end of the plunger 30. This problem is overcome by means of the groove 38 which allows the forward end of the plunger defining the actuating surface 32 to flex inwardly by a limited amount so that the finger 16 can pass it, and to snap back into position thereafter.

It will be appreciated that a wide variety of different shapes of actuating surface on the second member 6 and engagement means on plunger are possible. For example, in alternative arrangement, instead of providing a lateral groove 38 in the forward end of the plunger 30, there can be provided a forwardly extending abutment surface as a flat top to the forward region of the plunger adjacent the pivot without an adjacent groove, or as a step or as a forwardly protruding tab, in each case an actuating formation on second member 6 abutting the surface or other adaptation on opening of the press 2 to drive the plunger 30 out of the chamber.

CLAIMS:

1. A culinary press comprising first and second elongate members pivotably connected to each other near a pressing end at a first pivot point, the first member
5 at least in part defining a food receiving chamber, and with a perforated surface provided against which food to be crushed is pressed, and a pivotably mounted plunger disposed between the elongate members
10 to be pivotable about a second pivot point into said chamber, wherein the plunger is mounted so that its second pivot point is disposed on the opposite side of the first pivot point from the majority of the chamber, and wherein the second elongate member is
15 formed with an actuating surface which bears on the plunger, whereby the actuating surface bears on the plunger at a position increasingly distant from its pivot on progressive closing as food is being crushed.
- 20 2. A culinary press according to claim 1 wherein the second pivot point is disposed at a forward end of the chamber.
3. A culinary press according to claim 2 wherein the
25 first pivot point is disposed between one third and one half of the distance along the chamber from the forward end of the chamber.
4. A culinary press according to claim 3 wherein the first pivot point is disposed at about four tenths of

the distance along the chamber.

5. A culinary press according to any preceding claim wherein the plunger has an upper surface remote from its pivot which has a generally planar surface.

5 6. A culinary press according to any preceding claim wherein the plunger has an upper surface which, adjacent its pivot, defines a recessed region.

7. A culinary press according to any preceding claim wherein the actuating surface is defined on an
10 actuating finger fixed to an underside of the second elongate member.

8. A culinary press substantially as hereinafter described and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

15 9. A culinary press comprising first and second elongate members pivotably connected to each other near a pressing end, the first member at least in part defining a food receiving chamber and with a perforated surface provided against which food to be
20 crushed is pressed, and a pivotably plunger mounted disposed between the elongate members to be pivotable into said chamber towards the perforated surface, the second elongate member being adapted to act on the plunger on one side of its pivot to move the plunger
25 towards the perforated surface, and wherein the second elongate member is further adapted to act on the plunger on the opposite side of its pivot as the first and second members are moved apart on opening

of the press in order to drive the plunger out of the chamber.

- 5 10. A culinary press according to claim 9 wherein the second elongate member is formed with an actuator which on opening of the press engages means provided on the plunger.
11. A culinary press according to claim 10 wherein the actuator comprises a bent protrusion defining an edge which engages said means on the plunger.
- 10 12. A culinary press according to claim 10 or 11 wherein the first and second elongate members are pivotably connected at a position spaced from the said means on the plunger and arranged such that said actuator moves in an arc which intersects said means on the
15 plunger.
13. A culinary press according to claim 10, 11 or 12 wherein said means provided on the plunger comprise an abutment surface formed on the plunger which is abutted by said actuator.
- 20 14. A culinary press according to claim 13 wherein a lateral groove is formed between the abutment surface and the pivot of the plunger whereby the abutment surface may flex relative to the pivot.
- 25 15. A culinary press according to any one of claims 8 to 10 wherein the second member is formed with a cutout region with said actuator extending into the cutout and being spaced from said means of the plunger to allow a degree of relative pivoting apart of the

first and second members before the actuator engages the plunger.

5 16. A culinary press according to claim 15 wherein the actuator is spaced from said means on the plunger by a distance sufficient to allow about 90° of relative pivoting in the opening direction before the actuator engages the plunger.

10 17. A culinary press according to claim 13 wherein the plunger is pivotably mounted at a position closely adjacent the region of the plunger with the abutment surface such that after a predetermined rotation of the plunger as it is driven by the actuator, the actuator escapes from the abutment surface such that on continued opening the rotation the plunger is no longer driven by the actuator.

15 18. A culinary press according to claim 17 wherein it is arranged that the plunger is pivotably driven through an angle of about 50° before the actuator leaves said groove.

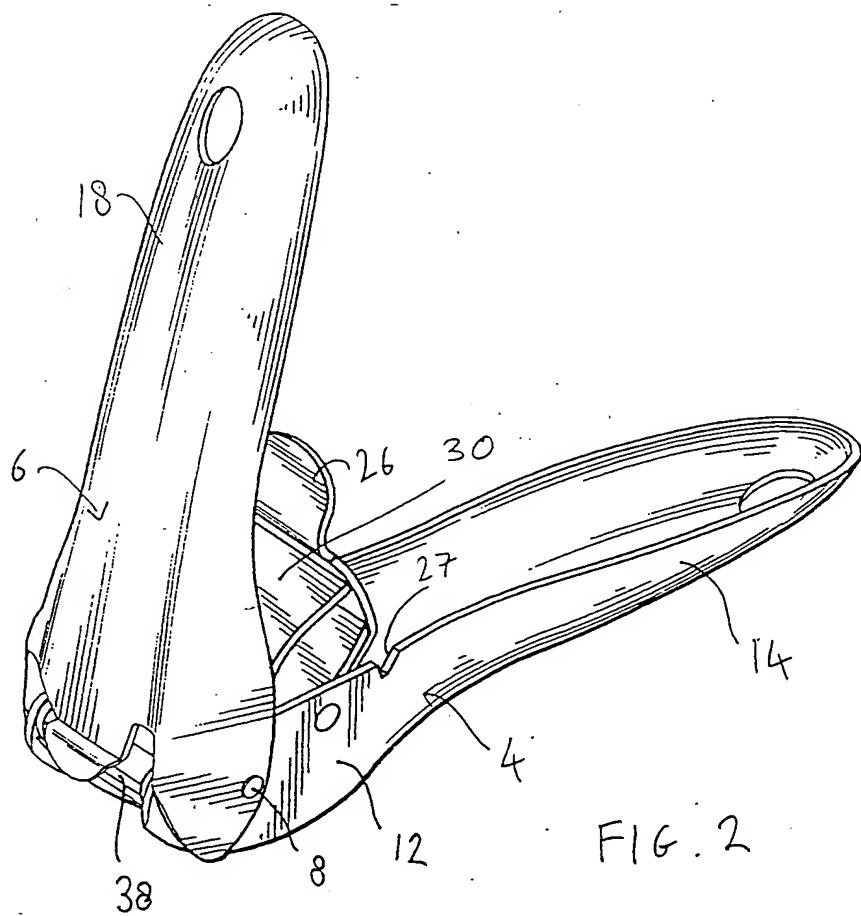
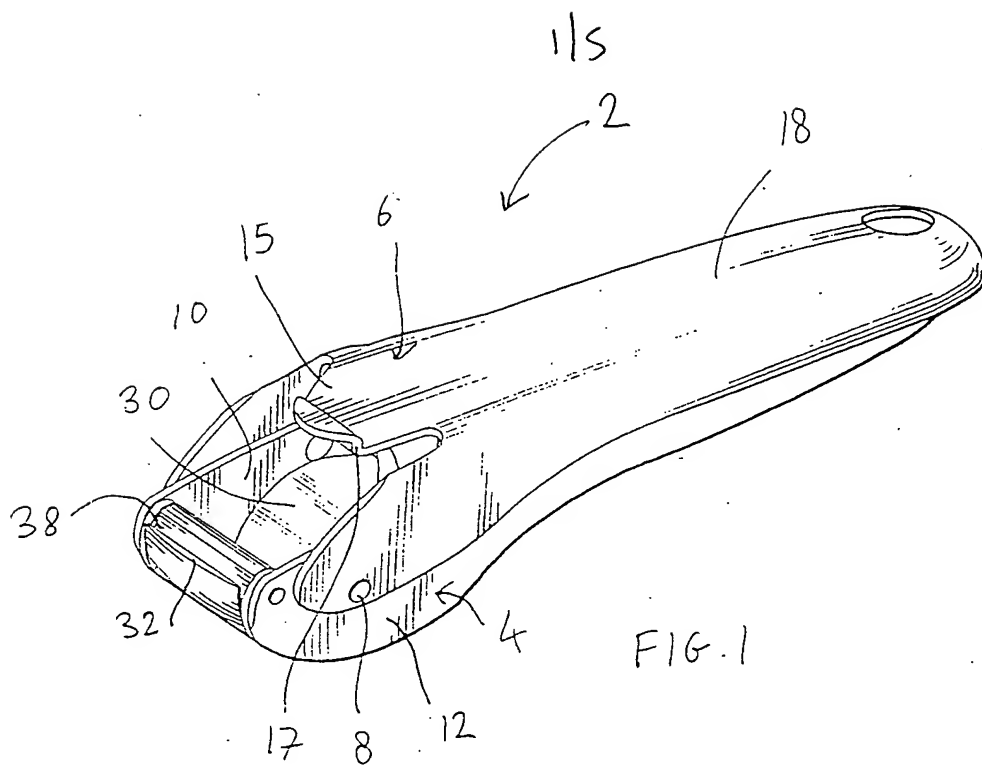
20 19. A culinary press according to one of claims 9 to 18 wherein the perforated surface is formed in a separate bent strip pivotably joined to the first elongate member and forming at least a bottom region of said chamber.

25 20. A culinary press substantially as hereinbefore described and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

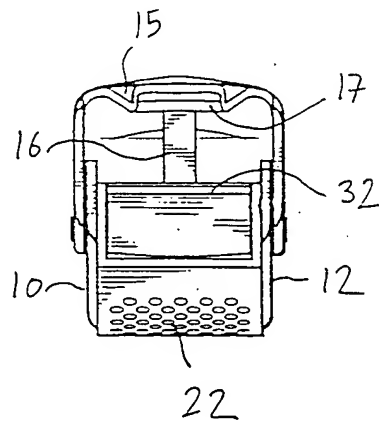
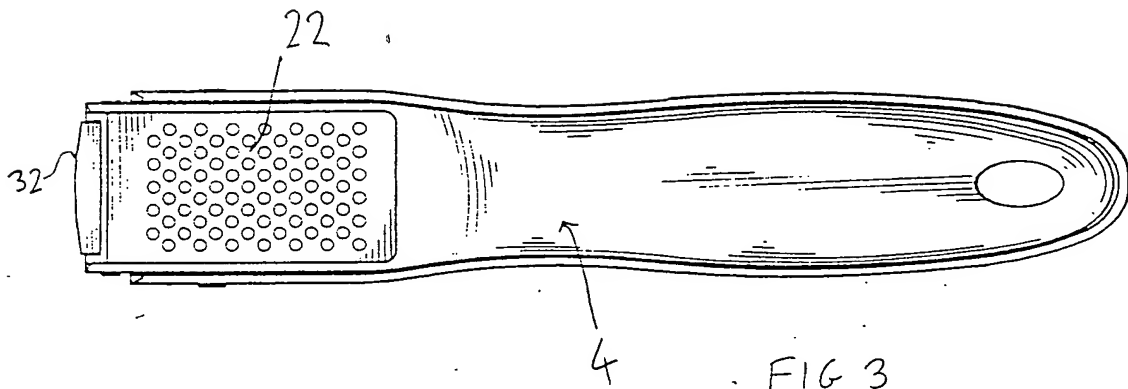
Abstract
Culinary Press

5 A culinary press comprises first and second elongate
members (4,6) pivotably connected to each other near a
pressing end at a first pivot point (8), the first member
(4) at least in part defining a food receiving chamber
(9), and with a perforated surface provided against which
10 forced to be crushed is pressed, and a pivotably mounted
plunger (30) disposed between the elongate members to be
pivotable about a second pivot point (28) into said
chamber (9), wherein the plunger is mounted so that the
second pivot point (28) is disposed on the opposite side
15 of the first pivot point from the chamber (9), and wherein
the second elongate member (6) is formed with an actuating
finger (16) which bears on the plunger (30).

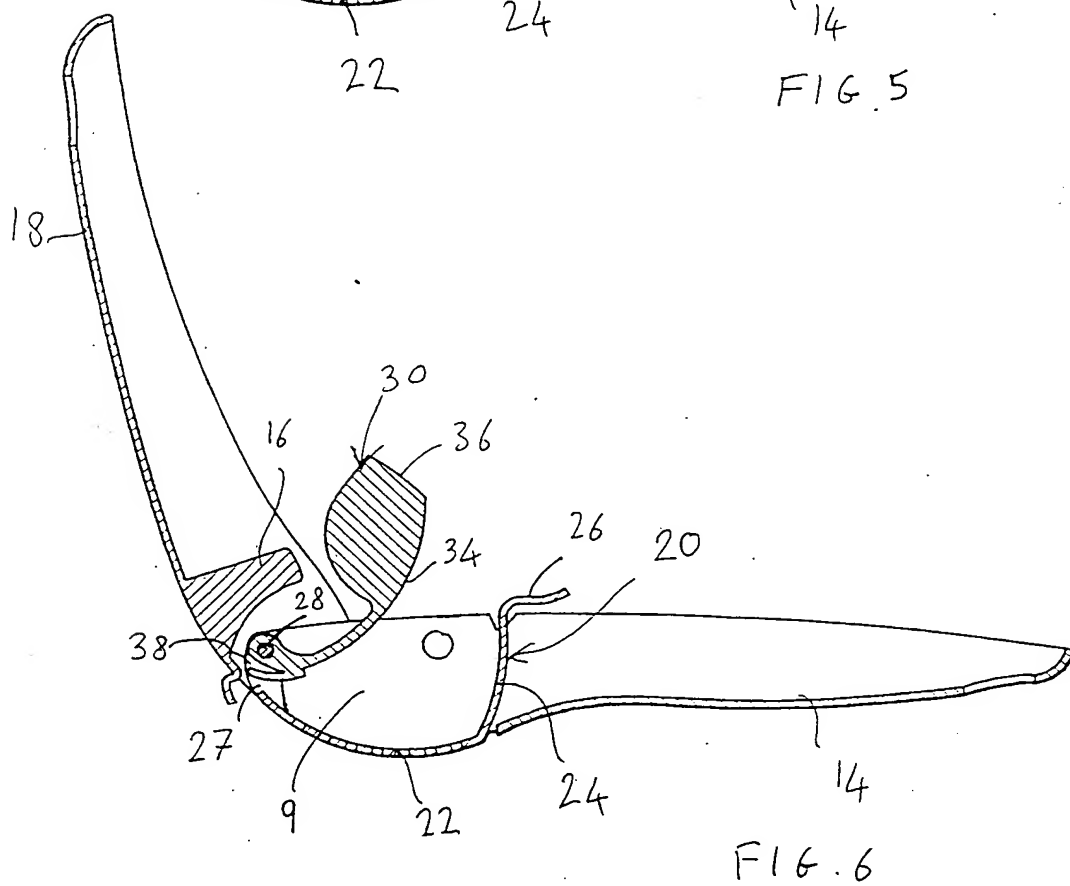
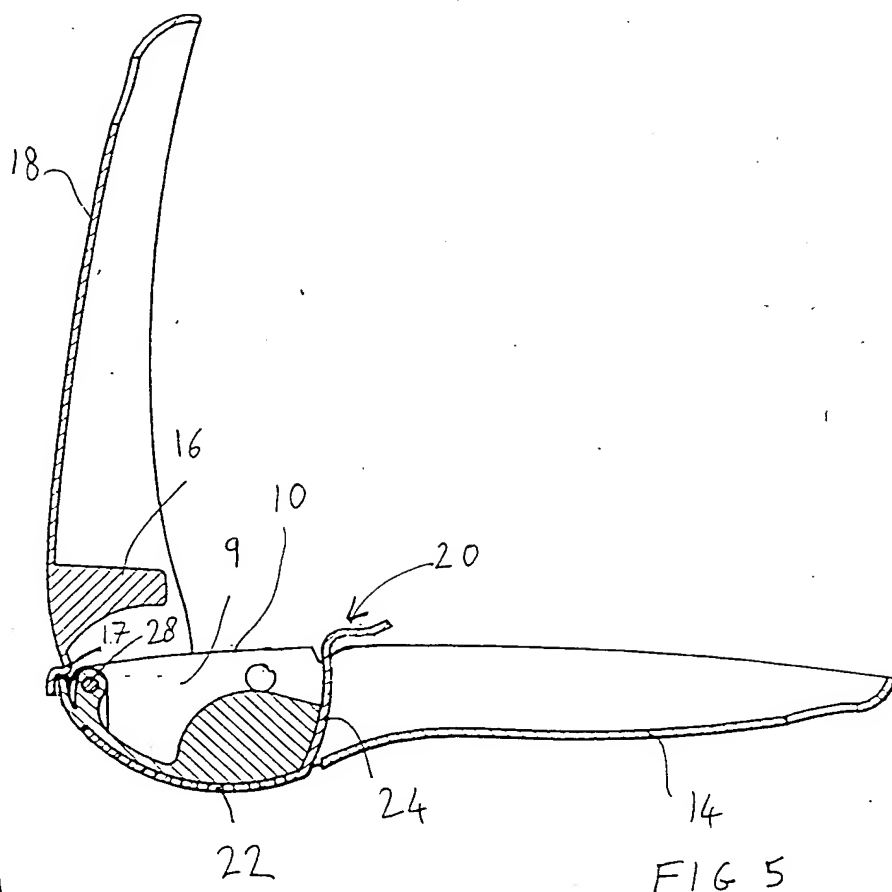
Figure 6



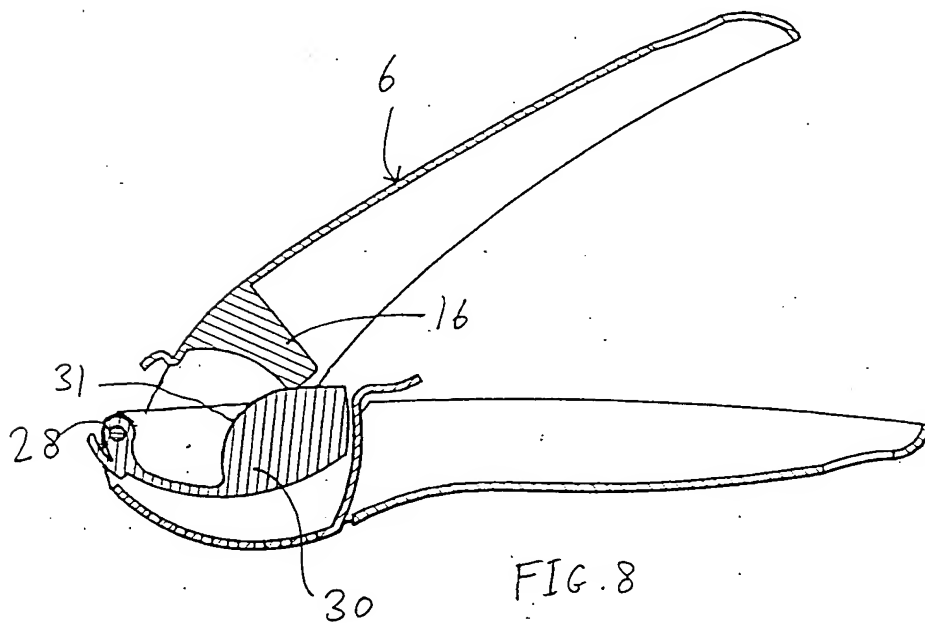
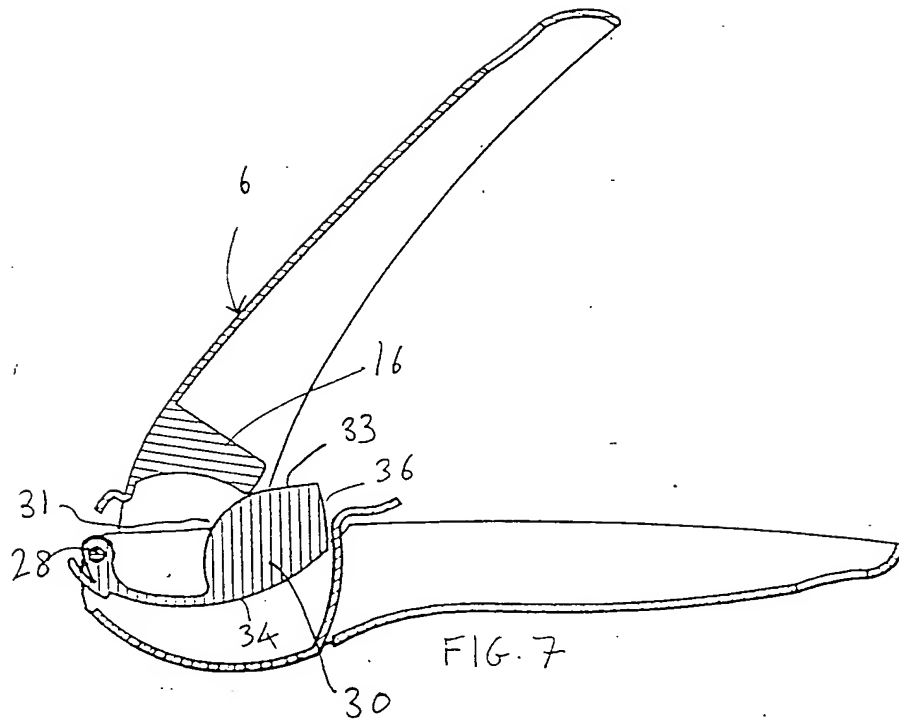
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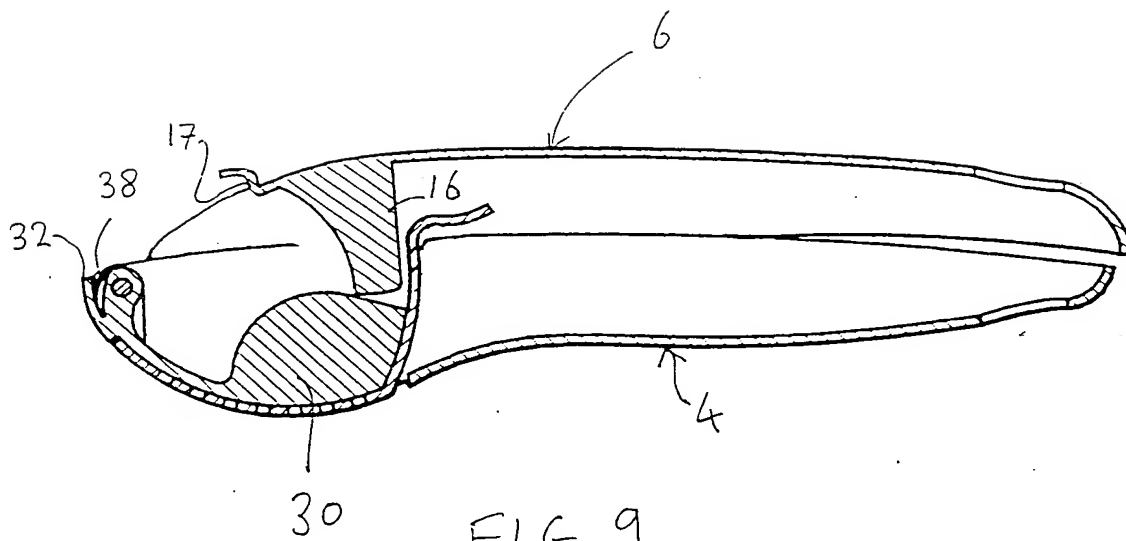


FIG. 9